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CATAWBA COUNTY HONORS EMPLOYEES WITH 25 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

Catawba County Government renewed an annual tradition on March 22nd, honoring employees with 25 or more years of service at the twenty-seventh annual Quarter Century Club lunch at the Catawba Country Club. Many current members of the club celebrated with retired County employees, who also served with the County for 25 or more years.

Catawba County formed the Quarter Century Club in 1986. A highlight of this year's program was the recognition of twelve new Quarter Century Club members. They are, in alphabetical order:

Brenda S. Davis, Income Maintenance Supervisor III, Social Services joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 7 months of service. She was working with Buncombe County Social Services



New members of the Quarter Century club are: Back row, L-R: Gary Reitzel, Emergency Services; Wanda Rozzelle, Library; Steve Putman, Emergency Services; Alice Layne, Public Health; Robert Pruette, Sheriff's Office; Sindie Sigmon, Public Health. Middle row, L-R: Karen Heffner, Social Services, Brenda Davis, Social Services; Joyce Jarrett, Tax; Kerry Hayer, Sheriff's Office. Seated, L-R: Kelle Love, Public Health; Savannah Glass, Technology

when, in anticipation of a family move to Catawba County, she applied with Catawba County Social Services and the rest is history. Brenda's division at Social Services determines Medicaid eligibility for citizens to enter nursing homes, receive at home care, etc. Her favorite part of the job is the challenge of staying aware of all the federal rule changes. Brenda was a charter member of the Employee Social Committee and completed the Catawba Leadership Excellence program. She has been named "Employee of the Month" and her unit has received "Unit of the Month" recognition. Brenda has two daughters, a grandson and a granddaughter. She enjoys reading, traveling, movies and music.

Savannah H. Glass, PC Specialist, Technology becomes a member of the club right at the 25-year mark. She is a native of Catawba County, born and raised in Hickory. When she heard about the job opening many years ago, she thought the County would be a good place to work! Savannah is the Computer HelpDesk Support Person and enjoys working with her fellow employees, sharing what she has learned over the years. She also enjoys learning from employees from time to time as they work together to find a solution. Savannah's son, Anthony, a music professor at NC A&T State University, is the father of four daughters. She also has two daughters: Beverly, who is the mother of two daughters and one son, and Gina, a local nurse practitioner.



Kerry N. Hayer, Deputy Sheriff (Sergeant), Sheriff's Office joins the QCC with just about 25 years to the day! He is a native of the county recruited by Sheriff David Huffman, first working as a reserve deputy, then part time, then full time as a jailer. He is now the Sergeant in the Community Relations Division. He also served on the Search and Rescue Team from 1994 to 2007. Kerry is a Civil War re-enactor with the 1st NC Artillery/5th US Artillery, which has one of the only twenty horse-drawn guns in the United States. He is also secretary for his Masonic Lodge in Newton.

Karen M. Heffner, Social Worker Supervisor III, Social Services enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 10 months of service. She decided to pursue a career with Catawba County because of its excellent reputation. Karen's favorite part of her job is assisting families with economic support and helping them transition to self-sufficiency. She was the County's Employee of the Year in 1998. She received her Masters in Social Work from the University of North Carolina in 1995. Karen is very proud of the fact that the County received the TANF Housing Initiative which allowed assistance to 22 families as they became homeowners. Karen has been married to husband Steve for "32 wonderful years." They have a son, Steven, who is married to Ashley. Steven will finish his Family Medicine Residency in June at Wake Forest University. Karen and her husband are currently remodeling their house.

Joyce G. Jarrett, Office Support Specialist, Tax joins the QCC with 25 years, 5 months of service. She was born and raised in Lincoln County, then married a Catawba County native and moved across the county line. Early in her Catawba County career, Joyce worked part time in the Board of Elections office, Tax Office and Social Services, then decided to work full time when a position came open in the Tax Office since she enjoyed the work and the people she worked with. She works with the public regarding real estate and elderly exemption questions and handles property transfers based on information from wills, deeds, etc. She served on the Social Committee, has taken a Mini-Course for employees on all of county government twice, and volunteered with 4-H for many years. Joyce has been widowed for five years after 53 years of marriage. She has two sons, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. She also lost a daughter to a car accident many years ago. Joyce's hobbies include reading, traveling, playing Rummikub and seeing plays. She visits shutins, prepares and delivers meals when there is a need, and works at her church as treasurer. She is also involved with several Grief Share groups and health programs monthly.

Alice H. Layne, Nursing Supervisor, Public Health joins the Club with 25 years of service. She is a native of the county and was working 12-hour shifts in an ICU, had small children and wanted a job with better hours, no weekends/holidays and more flexibility. Her mother was a County employee and persuaded her to apply for a nursing position in Public Health. Alice manages the Home Health Program for the County, which serves about 500 patients daily. Her favorite part of the job is when she can provide the patient care aspect and be "hands on" with the patients and families in the home. She has been a Public Health Employee of the Year nominee several times. She currently serves on the Adult Life Board, Family Caregivers Board, and the Block Grant Advisory Board at Social Services. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society. Alice is married to Al Layne. They have two children—Stephen and Katherine (married to Taylor). She is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, where she is active on the mission team. She has participated in medical missions to Haiti over the last two years—five times since the Port Au Prince earthquake. She enjoys summers on the lake, golf and scrapbooking. She feels very strongly as a supervisor that it is important to be a positive role model and influence on the staff.

Kelle S. Love, Income Maintenance Caseworker, Social Services enters the QCC with 25 years, 1 month of service. In search of a fulltime job, Kelle saw the opening for an Income Maintenance Caseworker/Eligibility Specialist, made application and got the job! Kelle works in the Adult Medicaid section and her favorite part of the job is working with the older population. She was Public Health's Employee of the Month in October 2003. She has been married for 29 years to Scott and they have two daughters. One is married, so she also has the "pleasure of a son-in-law." Kelle is a member of the Catawba Valley Community Chorus and is the organist and hand bell director at First United Methodist Church in Conover.

Robert B. Pruette, Deputy Sheriff, Sheriff's Office joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years almost to the day! He is a native of Catawba County and was recommended for hire by officers who were already employed with the Sheriff's Office. He spends a lot of time on the water as he is responsible for policing Lake Norman. Robert has had Sheriff's Training and Standards, and holds an Advanced Law Enforcement Certification. He is married and has two children and three grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and camping.

J. Steve Putman, EMT Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Services enters the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 9 months of service. Steve is a Catawba County native and joined the Maiden Rescue Squad when he was 18. Fellow Squad members were employed by the County's EMS and bragged on the service. As he worked with Squad members, he soon realized he wanted to be a paramedic with Catawba County EMS. Steve considers himself blessed to be in a position to provide physical and emotional support to patients and their families and fortunate to be working with very professional and caring co-workers. He received the first EMS Distinguished Service Award for his involvement with an annual Social Services banquet for foster children and, in 2002, the banquet group received a County Team Award for its work. In 2007 Steve was EMS Employee of the Year. He has been a Crew Chief since 1993 and has spent many years on the Training Committee. He was also a law enforcement officer for 12 years. Steve has been married to wife Greta for 24 years and they have two children- Paige and Seth.

Gary F. Reitzel, EMT Paramedic, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Services joins the QCC with 25 years, 8 months of service. He is a native of the county and says he worked for about ten years in a factory. He had gotten to know some of the paramedics and was encouraged to apply. He enjoys his work very much and has never looked back. He was the Catawba County EMS Employee of the Year in 1989. He is married to wife Sherry and has a son, Joseph. When he is not working, he likes to relax, read, walk and enjoy the outdoors. He is a member of St. James Lutheran Church and serves on its council. He has also been a volunteer with the Claremont Rescue Squad for the past 34 years.

Wanda S. Rozzelle, Library Services Specialist II, Library joins the Quarter Century Club with 25 years, 6 months of service. She moved to Hickory with her family when she was a child. After Wanda turned 40, she realized she had no retirement plan with her current employer and was determined to do something about that. She applied for a job with Social Services in the Medicaid unit and was hired in 1986. After five years with Social Services, she transferred to a position with the Library system, where she has been ever since. Early in her Social Services career, she was named Employee of the Year for the department and has been nominated twice for County Employee of the Year. She is married to husband Danny (who is retired from the Sheriff's Department). They have a daughter, Amy, and two dogs, Shorty and Mia. Wanda has been a member of North Newton Baptist Church for over 25 years and is involved in the choir and children's ministry. She is a yoga enthusiast and has been taking classes for over two years. To relax, she loves to play computer games, knit and crochet.

Sindie H. Sigmon, Business Manager I, Public Health comes into the QCC with 25 years, 7 months of service. She is a Catawba County native. When working for Hickory Public Schools, she would sometimes attend County functions and meet employees. She saw a pride in working for the County and wanted to be a part of that. She enjoys the high standards set and achieved for the County each year. Sindie loves numbers and math and during her formal training was exposed to governmental accounting—she knew it was for her! She is proud to work for Public Health and has been nominated several times for Public Health Employee of the Year as well as several Team Award nominations. She received the "All-Star" award from the NC Public Health Association in 2008 for dedication and service to Public Health. Sindie has been married to husband Richie for 27 years and they have one daughter, Andi Cathleen, a high school sophomore. They also have two Chihuahuas and a cat. She loves to hear people's life stories and likes to read and complete puzzles. She is very active in her church and serves on several committees. Sindie has delivered Meals on Wheels for over 20 years and looks forward to more volunteer and service time when she retires.



Current members of the Quarter Century Club include: (service indicated through March 31, 2012).

Polly Pearson, Social Services 39 years, 10 months Tom Lundy, County Manager 39 years, 8 months Kathy Johnson, Tax 38 years, 8 months Dean Brooks, Finance 37 years, 2 months Lynn Baker, Sheriff's Office 33 years, 8 months Ray Lemmond, Jr., Technology 33 years, 8 months Rhonda Ross, Social Services 33 years, 5 months Coy Reid, Sheriff's Office 32 years, 6 months Jenny Glass, Social Services 31 years, 11 months Freddy Smith, Emergency Services 31 years, 4 months Kathy Lail, Tax 31 years, 3 months Donna Stikeleather, Technology 29 years, 4 months

David Sheets, Emergency Services 29 years

Teri Cain, Social Services 28 years, 9 months Penny Hunsucker, Public Health 28 years, 5 months

Rick Cook, Technology 28 years

Mike Hale, Sheriff 27 years, 11 months David Hewat, Emergency Services 27 years, 11 months Renee Hart, Technology 27 years, 9 months Gary Bolick, Emergency Services 27 years, 7 months Kelly Isenhour, Public Health 27 years, 6 months Lynne Reed, Library 27 years, 6 months Phyllis Sipes, Register of Deeds 27 years, 6 months Susan Moser, Public Health 27 years, 4 months 27 years, 2 months Sue Brewer, Tax Ona Scruggs, Tax 27 years, 1 month

Jerry Boggs, Technology 27 years Wilce Ikerd, Finance 27 years

C.K. Day, Sheriff's Office 26 years, 11 months Melissa Holt, Sheriff 26 years, 8 months Andrea Bruns, Public Health 26 years, 6 months Penny Zucco, Tax 26 years, 6 months Rick Jones, Finance 26 years, 5 months Linda Shull, Library 26 years, 5 months Tommy Poovey, Emergency Medical Services 26 years, 3 months 26 years, 3 months Cindy Lee Travis, Finance

Ronald Baumgarner, Sr., Emergency Services 26 years

Vivian Lee, Public Health 25 years, 11 months Karen Heffner, Social Services 25 years, 10 months Steve Putman, Emergency Services 25 years, 9 months Gary Reitzel, Emergency Services 25 years, 8 months Brenda Davis, Social Services 25 years, 7 months Sindie Sigmon, Public Health 25 years, 7 months Wanda Rozzelle, Library 25 years, 6 months Joyce Jarrett, Tax 25 years, 5 months Kelle Love, Social Services 25 years, 1 month

Savannah Glass, Technology

Kerry Hayer, Sheriff's Office

Alice Layne, Public Health

Robert Pruette, Sheriff's Office

25 years

25 years

25 years



Fifteen members of the club who have retired in the past year were recognized and four who have passed away were remembered.

The club was entertained by a performance from Singular Sensation, the Catawba Valley Community College Show Choir. The choir is a group of auditioned singers who also dance. They come from many backgrounds with different educational aspirations. Singers receive a full scholarship to CVCC in return for their work as "good will" ambassadors in the community. This year, Singular Sensation is comprised of twenty singers and one audio technician. They have performed in eleven foreign countries and nine states. In April, they will be traveling to Ireland for a three-performance study tour.

The Quarter Century Club's active members traditionally receive a gift as they enter the club. This year, they received a decorative paperweight made of recycled sea glass stones from Indonesia. The light blue stones feature a sandblasted version of a new logo which Catawba County began to use at the beginning of 2012.

